

CATAWBA COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY EXPANSION

A expansion of the Catawba County Detention Facility was dedicated at a ceremony at the Catawba County Justice Center at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 4, 2007. The following are some facts about the jail expansion:



Area of jail expansion

Why is an expansion of the jail needed? Built in 1980, the older portion of the jail was designed to house 89 inmates. By 2006, the jail was housing an average of 165 inmates per day, with the numbers increasing about 10% each year. This table shows the increase in the inmate population (BCDCF refers to the Burke-Catawba District

Confinement Facility, which Catawba County has shared with Burke County since 1996 and which has provided sufficient jail space to delay this expansion for eleven years) :

Inmate Population	Main Facility	BCDCF	Totals
Inmates Currently Confined	165	87	252
Daily Average in 2000	82	15	97
Daily Average in 04-05	149	89	238
Daily Average in 05-06	153	86	239
Daily Average in 06-07	164	88	252

Note: These totals do not reflect actual daily populations, which have been as high as 215, nor average monthly populations as high as 187 at the Main Facility. These totals also do not reflect the average monthly population totals at the BCDCF, which have exceeded 200.

The overcrowded conditions over the past five years have raised serious safety concerns for the officers manning the facility and possible Federal or State intervention that would mandate an expansion, with no local control over the type of facility built.

What is the cost of the expansion? The cost for the expansion of the Catawba County Detention Facility will be \$18.2 million. The Catawba County Board of Commissioners has given preliminary approval to a three cent property tax increase, (with adoption of the County 2006-2007 budget expected to occur on June 26), to pay for the debt service for the financing of this expansion.

How large is this expansion?: The expansion has increased the size and inmate capacity as follows:

Construction and Capacity	Old Facility	New Facility	Total
Square Footage	26,000	76,000	102,000
Housing Capacity (Excluding Holding Cells)	83	176	259

The new section of the facility has been designed so that it can be further expanded in the future as needed. The kitchen, medical facility and warehouse are oversized at this point, for example, so they can accommodate any future expansion.

What are some of the main components of the

design: The expanded detention facility has four main housing units. Two are multi-floor units, with 32 cells that hold two inmates each. These two units have a total of 128 beds. A Special Management Unit is a high security unit divided into three sections, with each having multiple floors and all single bed units. The Special Management units contain a total of 32 beds. The Trustee Quarters is a 16 bed dormitory unit.



Standard inmate housing unit

Door controls in the portion of the jail constructed in 1980 utilize hand operated sliders, hand operated hinged doors, and electric motor driven sliders. The electric doors are operated from a single control room using garage door style push buttons. The door controls in the expanded portion of the facility use a combination of sliders and hinged doors. All are air operated. All doors are controlled by a touch screen computer system that controls the opening and closing of doors and door position, lights, and the intercom system.

The expanded facility includes a sally port where those in custody are brought in by secured vehicle, then confined within the building for transfer into the facility via a single entry.

The expansion has been designed with a progressive "flow" in mind. Once an inmate enters the facility and cannot make bond, he or she will only pass through an area one time.



Public video visitation area

All visitation is currently done in a booth at the front entrance. The expanded section will utilize video visiting. This system is computer controlled.

The facility includes a new Magistrate's Office, located within the public waiting area, and also providing secured windows and ports for necessary hearings with those persons who have been confined

Are any improvements being made at the portion of the jail built in 1980? Yes. The existing building will be

retrofitted with new units connected to the video visitation

network and to the system now being used so inmates can have first court appearances via video. This will increase security because jail personnel will not have to remove inmates from secure confinement, as is now the case. The existing building will receive new cell lighting, cleaning and painting, and upgrading of the fire system. Upgrades have already been completed to the roof and plumbing systems.

Who were the key persons and companies involved in the expansion? Hickory Construction Company was general contractor for the project. Little Diversified Architectural Consultant served as the architect. Mr. John Hardy is the Project Manager. Mr. Ernest Williams served as Construction Manager. Lieutenant Mike Hale and Captain Tom Lambert of the Catawba County Sheriff's Office served as special consultants from the Sheriff's Office.

When will the new facility be in operation?: July 2007.